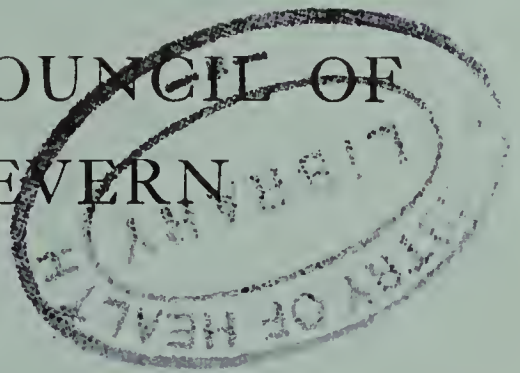




RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
UPTON-UPON-SEVERN



REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year ended

31st December, 1949

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF UPTON-UPON-SEVERN

Report for the Year 1949

To:—

The Chairman and Members of the District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1949. This is the first full year during which the National Health Service Act has been in operation together with the other companion piece of legislation; namely the National Assistance Act. This legislation has not altered the overall responsibilities of the Rural District Council for taking such measures as may be necessary to control infectious disease, nor has it greatly altered the local authorities' responsibility for the material surroundings in which the population of this district lives. The many administrative difficulties of the new services have been greatly eased by the spirit of co-operation which has been noted both in the professional and lay members of the new authorities set up under these acts.

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act gives the Court powers to order the removal to a place of safety of the aged and infirm who are no longer able to look after themselves. No action has had to be taken although in one case it was necessary to warn an old person that application might have to be made to the Courts.

I wish particularly to draw your attention to that part of the Sanitary Inspector's Report dealing with housing statistics, where you will see that 747 houses have been classified as suffering from major defects and 228 as unfit, even though the survey is not quite completed. (It will be completed in the early part

of 1950.) Such has been the shortage of houses that so far it has been virtually impossible to raise the general standard of accommodation in existing houses either by replacement or adequate reconstruction; yet there are at least 1,000 houses in the district whose time of life is bound to be short. It will be necessary to continue to press for many years for the improvement of the housing position.

The building of houses in a Rural district is dependant on the availability of water. This district is unfortunate in that there are many parts where deep wells are impracticable. Keuper marl, of which most of the district is composed, is notoriously unreliable in its water bearing properties, nearly always providing water of a high degree of permanent hardness. In fact the hardness of the water lying deep under the district has caused many problems in Powick, Kempsey, Earls Croome, Ripple, Bushley, Pendock and elsewhere. The progress of the water scheme as a whole and the approval by the Minister of the Scheme for the south and west part of our district will enable a much more satisfactory attack to be made upon the present housing shortage. As new water supplies are developed it is necessary also to arrange for the disposal of the additional sewage created, and therefore it is most gratifying that the Sewage Works at Powick should have been completed and now be functioning satisfactorily. It is a fair assumption that the health of any area is closely linked with its prosperity, and again it is satisfactory to note that increase in the water available should enable a great increase to take place in the milk output of the district.

The amount of infectious disease occurring during 1949 has been phenomenally low. No cases of Infantile Paralysis occurred during the year in which there was a high incidence throughout the rest of the country. It is difficult to understand why this has been so. The only "epidemic" of any note occurring was a small outbreak of conjunctivitis, probably of virus origin in which approximately 27 school children in Welland were affected.

Finally a word of explanation is due on the significance of the statistics which are required to be published on page 4 of this report. In the case of the still-birth rate and the infant mortality rate the actual numbers of persons involved is so small that the figures have little significance. For instance 9

still-births occurred in the year giving a still birth rate of 40.1 per 1,000 live and still-births. Had one further case happened to have occurred the figures would have risen to 44.4. Similarly 7 infants under the age of one died during the year giving an infant mortality rate of 32.5 that is almost exactly the same as the rest of England and Wales. Had one more death occurred the figure would have been 37.2 per 1,000 live births, which is very much higher than that for the rest of the country. So in these figures chance plays much too big a part for them to be significant.

(Signed) H. F. GREEN,
Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Acreage	...	...	...	...	...	...	50,947
Number of inhabited houses, according to the rate books	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,638
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£63,602
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£292

Resident Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,340
Birth Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.1
Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still-births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	40.1
Death Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.4
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	32.5

Comparable data for England and Wales, 1949.

Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.7
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.7
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	32.0

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

LABORATORY SERVICES

Chemical analysis is carried out, as before, by arrangement with the County Laboratory at the County Buildings. Bacteriological examinations are now carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Clinics.—There are none provided by this Authority.

The County Council have provided by local arrangement with Voluntary Committees, for Infant Welfare Centres to be held at the following places:—

Upton-upon-Severn	...	1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Welland	...	2nd and 4th Thursdays in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Hanley Swan	...	3rd Wednesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Kempsey	...	1st Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Clinics are also provided at Worcester and Malvern under arrangements made by the County Council, for Maternity and Eye Cases.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the Year ended December, 1949

To:—

The Chairman and Members of the District Council.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present a report of the work of the Sanitary Inspector for the year ended December, 1949.

The statistics contained in the following pages will, I trust, convey some idea of the multifarious duties appertaining to the Office.

Such works and duties continue to increase each year, and unfortunately, owing to the restrictions still considered necessary by the Central Government, one's efforts do not always produce the desired results, which is especially evident in housing repair work.

Summary of Inspections.

Housing inspections	...	...	...	...	...	27
General complaints	...	...	...	...	...	34
School inspections (sanitary accommodation)					...	13
Visits for water and milk sampling	...	...	...	...	...	77
Visits to food shops	...	...	...	...	...	25
Visits to bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	19
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	60
Cow shed inspections	...	...	...	...	...	95
Investigations, infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	11
Inspections, tents, vans and sheds	...	...	...	...	...	22

Drainage inspections	...	...	...	...	...	202
Rats and mice destruction inspections	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspections under Public Health (Meat) Regulations...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Visits to hop pickers' dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	2
Repair licences inspections (Civil Building Control)	...	...	...	...	...	15
Miscellaneous and re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	219
Visits in connection with Requisitioned property	...	...	...	...	...	11
Investigations of Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	5
Visits to Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	10
Verminous Premises fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	7

Ice Cream.

No. of Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Retailers	...	...	...	...	...	9
No. of inspections of premises	...	...	...	...	...	7

Bakehouses.

No. of Bakehouses in area	...	...	...	...	...	8
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	19
No. of notices served	...	{ Cleanliness		—	Nil	
		{ Sanitary Accom.		—	Nil	

Shops, Cafes, Kitchens and Public Houses.

No. of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	19
No. of notices served	...	{ Cleanliness		...	...	Nil
		{ Sanitary Accom.		...	...	Nil

Factory and Workshops Acts.

No. of premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	32
No. of notices served	...	{ Cleanliness		...	...	Nil
		{ Sanitary Accom.		...	...	1

Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.

No. of Producers...	{	Wholesalers	...	...	275
		Retailers...	...	...	28
Purveyors other than producers			...	...	5
No. of inspections			...	...	95
No. of samples taken	4{	Satisfactory	...	...	3
		Unsatisfactory	...	...	1

WATER SUPPLY

Piped Supplies.

<i>Area Supplied.</i>	<i>Authority Supplying.</i>
Upton-upon-Severn, Hanley Castle, Ripple, Earls Croome and Severn Stoke	District Council.
Powick Mental Hospital and about 30 houses	Worcester City Corporation.
Newland, about half the parish	Malvern Urban Council. (Statutory Authority).
Madresfield, most of the parish	(Private Supply) Area in Malvern Statutory Area.

During the year the scheme known as District Scheme No. 2 received the approval of the Minister of Health. When completed this scheme will provide a piped supply to the parishes of Bushley, Eldersfield, Pendock, Longdon, Holdfast, Queenhill and part of Berrow.

Although the major portion of the rural district is dependant upon shallow wells, no acute shortages were reported during the past summer months.

WATER SAMPLING

Upton-upon-Severn Bore-Hole Supply.

No. of Bacteriological examinations	...	...	...	6
Result—Satisfactory	...	...	...	6
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	—
No. of Chemical Analyses	...	...	...	3
Result—Satisfactory	...	...	...	3
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	—

Private Wells.

No. of Samples submitted for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...	122
Result—Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	60
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	62
No. of wells cleaned and repaired as a result of informal action	...	...	...	...	...	13
No. of wells closed	...	...	...	...	...	1

Swimming Baths.

No. of privately owned swimming baths open to public	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. of samples submitted for analysis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Result—Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	1
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	—

HOUSING

The general housing position throughout the district remains acute, and, owing to the very small number of houses completed during the year the conditions appertaining at the end of 1948 still prevail. With 64 houses under construction, some of which should be completed early in the new year, we hope for an improvement in the near future in the circumstances of some of the most serious cases on the rehousing list.

The list of applications for Council Houses is still a formidable one and no apparent decrease has been effected by the 98 houses already completed since the end of the war.

No. of houses erected during the year	...	...	...	...	17
(a) by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	8
(b) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	9

Table showing number of houses completed by the Local Authority as part of the Post War programme:

Year	Houses Completed	In Course of Erection
1946	10	—
1947	27	—
1948	53	—
1949	8	64

Housing Statistics.

During the year it was found impossible to continue with the housing inspections as advised by the "Hobhouse Report", and a temporary Official was appointed to complete the survey. This will be completed during the early part of 1950.

The following table shows the number and classification of premises so far inspected in each Parish.

PARISH	Houses Insp.	Classification*				Houses included in the preceding four categories which have been noted for action under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act.
		1	2	3	4	
Berrow	39	1	7	20	11	7
Birtsmorton ..	25	—	1	16	8	3
Bushley	35	1	12	19	3	4
Castlemorton ..	88	—	25	42	21	8
Croome D'Abitot ..	25	—	18	7	—	—
Earls Croome ..	26	—	16	5	5	1
Eldersfield	67	—	9	42	16	10
Guarlford	37	3	16	10	8	2
Hanley Castle ..	121	3	48	58	12	9
Hill Croome	19	—	4	10	5	1
Holdfast	18	7	—	8	3	2
Kempsey	229	32	85	80	32	13
Little Malvern ..	10	—	2	5	3	—
Longdon	46	—	13	30	3	2
Madresfield	46	3	22	20	1	—
Newland	21	1	4	15	1	—
Queenhill	18	9	—	4	5	—
Pendock	18	—	3	13	2	2
Powick	296	29	60	169	38	11
Ripple	107	—	29	50	28	9
Severn Stoke	104	2	34	52	16	11
Upton-upon-Severn	80	11	26	39	4	8
Welland	48	2	10	33	3	1
	1,523	104	444	747	228	104

*(1) In all respects fit.

(2) Minor defects.

(3) Major defects.

(4) Unfit, and cannot be made fit at a reasonable expense.

New legislation in the form of the Housing Act, 1949 came into operation during the year.

This Act confers upon the Local Authority power to provide financial assistance towards the improvement of existing

housing accommodation, provided that when the proposed work is completed the property will comply with the following standard:

1. Be in all respects dry.
2. Be in good state of repair.
3. Have each room properly ventilated.
4. Have an adequate supply of wholesome water laid on for all purposes *inside* the dwelling.
5. To be provided with efficient and adequate means of supplying hot water for domestic purposes.
6. Have an internal or otherwise readily accessible water closet.
7. Have a fixed bath, preferably in a separate room.
8. Be provided with a sink or sinks with suitable arrangements for the disposal of waste water.
9. Be provided with facilities for domestic washing, including a copper preferably in a separate room.
10. Have a proper drainage system.
11. Be provided with adequate points for artificial lighting in each room.
12. Be provided with adequate facilities for heating each habitable room.
13. Have satisfactory facilities for preparing and cooking food.
14. Have a well ventilated larder or food store.
15. Have proper provision for the storage of fuel.
16. Have satisfactory surface paths to outbuildings and convenient access from a street to a back door.
17. Provide suitable and satisfactory accommodation for at least 30 years.

One application was received during the year and is awaiting the approval of the Minister of Health.

Action under statutory powers during the year:—

Public Health Acts:—

- | | | |
|--|--------|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | | 3 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices | | 3 |

Under the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which				
Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil

SEWERAGE

Sewers and disposal works are provided and maintained in the following parishes:—

Upton-upon-Severn	...	Pumping Scheme
Kempsey		ditto
Callow End		ditto
Earls Croome		ditto
Hanley Castle		Gravitation
Hanley Swan		ditto
Powick		ditto

New disposal works and sewers to a portion of the Powick area were completed during the year.

A number of smaller schemes dealing with sewage from small groups of houses are also in existence.

The Parishes of Severn Stoke, Hill Croome, Ripple, Bushley, Welland, Madresfield and Newland are areas where existing conditions give rise to legitimate complaints. Schemes are in course of preparation respecting Ripple, Newland and Hill Croome.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACTS

No. of infestations treated	...	...	...	...	75
Private houses	...	...	...	...	54
Business premises	...	...	...	...	4
No. of other infestations	...	...	...	...	17
No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	28

The work involved in the treatment of infestations is carried out by Mr. R. H. Bemand, who is also the Council's Housing Manager.

In view of the new legislation which comes into force in the new year (The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949), which places upon the Local Authority the responsibility for inspecting the whole of the district, including farms, consideration must be given to the appointment of a full time operator.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Area served	...	...	...	Whole area about 85% of properties.
Service	...	...	...	Fortnightly in most areas.
Disposal	...	...	...	To three tips.
Approximate amount of refuse	...	...	...	1,100 tons per year.

The refuse collection is carried out by direct labour.

Owing to the number of houses erected since the scheme was inaugurated, and also the increased amount of refuse placed for collection, it was found necessary to bring into operation a second collection van. This action was accelerated by a request from the Authorities to collect and dispose of the refuse from two Military camps in the area.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food condemned as being unfit for Human Consumption.

Milk	...	...	23 tins	Camembert		
Soup	...	...	4 tins	Cheese	...	9 pkts.
Luncheon Meat			5 tins	Cheese	...	159 lbs.
Canned Rabbit...			1 tin	Sauce	...	3 botts.
„ Vegetables			2 tins	Pickles	...	1 jar
Peas	...	...	2 tins	Eggs	...	3 doz.
Canned Grapes...			3 tins	Herrings	...	1 tin
„ Rhubarb			1 tin	Pilchards	...	1 tin
Jam and				Fish paste	...	2 tins
Marmalade	...		302 lbs.			

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Green, Medical Officer of Health, for his help and encouragement during the past year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) E. CROMWELL,

Sanitary Inspector.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Since the 5th July, 1948 the isolation hospitals have passed into the hands of the Regional Hospital Board. The only practical difference that this has made is that it has since been possible to send cases of infectious disease to the most suitable hospital without regard to previous financial agreements between councils. The staff of the isolation hospitals have shown the same spirit of co-operation as before, a fact much appreciated in the district.

General investigation of cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria and other more serious infectious diseases is carried out and advice given to contacts which might be conducive to the retarding of the spread of infection. A simple form of room disinfection by fumigation is carried out.

Visits to premises for investigation	...	...	11
Premises disinfected after notifiable diseases	...		7
Premises disinfected after other diseases	...		2

Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1949 the tuberculosis register contained the names of 39 males and 43 females, who normally reside in the district.

During the year 13 new cases were notified, 12 on account of pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 because of the presence of the disease in part of the body other than the lungs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1949.

Disease	All ages	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-19 yrs.	20-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65+	No age specified
Scarlet Fever ...	4	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-
Measles ...	40	1	4	3	6	3	20	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	59	4	4	4	8	9	24	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
NON-CIVILIANS														
MEASLES ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CARRIED OUT DURING 1949.

	Ages 1-5 years	Ages 5-14 years	Total for Year
Children who received a full course of Primary Immunisation ...	135	11	146
Children who received a Re-inforcing Injection ...	—	61	61

Immunisation in relation to Child Population.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1949.

Age at 31.12.49. i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1949	1 1948	2 1947	3 1946	4 1945	5-9 1940-44	10-14 1935-39	Total under 15
Number Immunised ...	7	106	140	140	111	711	703	1918
Children under 5					Children 5-14			
Estimated mid-year child population, 1949					1,784			

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

At the time of writing this report it is thought that there may be an association between carrying out of prophylactic inoculation and the site of paralysis in cases of poliomyelitis. The figures for 1949 are essentially the same as those for 1948, that is to say that approximately 50% of all children under the age of five have at some time been immunised. Next year I shall have to report on the effect of this chance discovery of a possible association between inoculation and paralysis. If the figures have dropped, it may be said that there will be more cause for alarm at the possibility of rising incidence of diphtheria than at the possibility of serious trouble due to poliomyelitis.

DEATHS

CAUSES OF DEATH (ALL AGES)

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Influenza	2	1	1
Tuberculosis... ..	2		2
Cancer (all forms)	23	7	16
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	24	7	17
Diseases of the Heart and Arteries	70	36	34
Bronchitis	8	4	4
Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases	6	4	2
Diseases of the digestive system	5	4	1
Nephritis	4	1	3
Premature Birth	2	2	—
Congenital Conditions (at birth)	4	1	3
Violence	7	4	3
All other causes	22	8	14
Totals	179	79	100

